

Deadly shopping may be banned

CHILDREN could be banned from buying a shopping list of deadly goods in a new home safety drive.

Matches, paraquat weed-killer, household bleaches and ammonia cleaners could join fireworks, cigarettes and alcoholic drinks on the forbidden list for young shoppers.

And even jumble sale bargains could come under Whitehall control.

The proposals were put up for discussion yesterday by the Consumer Protection Minister Mr Alan Williams.

He aims to cut the yearly home accident toll of 7,000 deaths and 1,250,000 injuries.

Mr Williams is concerned about the safety of second-hand goods bought at jumble sales. He hopes to hear the opinions of jumble sale organisers on any possible legislation.

Another suggestion in the Green Paper is to speed up the cumbersome process for banning dangerous toys and novelties.

Concern

In the past there has been concern over 'love test' and 'drinking bird' toys filled with potentially dangerous chemicals.

A central ban would cut out the present time-consuming process of voluntary agreements. It would also stop dangerous goods banned by one council popping up for sale in another part of the country.

The Government wants views on whether it should have the power to seize or order the destruction of dangerous goods.

Labelling could also become more safety-conscious, with a system of symbols showing potential hazards. Labels could give first aid instructions and say clearly where advice can be obtained speedily on the composition of a product.

Mr Williams wants comments on his proposals by the end of May. After that, he said yesterday, he will take his time considering the views.

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